

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES • SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
10833 LE CONTE AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1772  
TELEPHONE 310-206-6920 • FAX 310-206-9903

January 5, 2000

Michael P. Kenny  
Executive Officer  
Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Mr. Kenny:

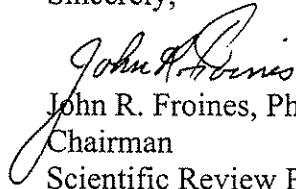
This letter is to inform you of action taken by the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants regarding methyl-tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

On August 4, 1999 you asked the Panel to review documentation on the carcinogenic potency of MTBE which had been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHHA). In preparing its report, OEHHHA used its March 1999 report on MTBE in drinking water written for their Public Health Goals program. The current report, which estimates cancer risks from exposure to MTBE by inhalation, was also made available for a 30-day public comment period.

During the Panel's meetings on October 6 and November 17, 1999, we considered the report, including documentation from the public health goals report and OEHHHA's responses to comments received from the public. By law, the Panel must review such a report, together with the scientific data on which the report is based, and determine whether or not the report is based on sound science. At the November meeting the Panel unanimously affirmed its conclusion that the OEHHHA document titled "Attachment 1, Health Effects of Exposure to Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)", is based on sound, scientific knowledge, methods, and practices.

The Panel welcomes any opportunity to be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Froines, Ph.D.  
Chairman  
Scientific Review Panel

cc: Scientific Review Panel members  
Joan E. Denton, Ph.D., Director, OEHHHA  
Jim Behrmann, ARB



Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

## Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.

Chairman

2020 L Street • P.O. Box 2815 • Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

August 4, 1999



Gray Davis  
Governor

Dr. John R. Froines  
Chairman, Scientific Review Panel  
Director, Center for Occupational  
& Environmental Health  
School of Public Health CHS 46-070  
University of California, Los Angeles  
650 Young Drive South  
Los Angeles, California 90024-1772

Dear Dr. Froines:

This letter is to formally request that the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) review the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA) enclosed documentation on the carcinogenic potency of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), in accordance with the usual procedures for peer-review of the health values for toxic air contaminants.

As background information, on March 25, 1999, Governor Gray Davis signed Executive Order D-5-99 finding that "on balance, there is significant risk to the environment from using MTBE in gasoline in California." The Governor specifically directed that OEHHA prepare an analysis of the health risks of ethanol in gasoline and its by-products by the end of this year. The State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, is also to develop a clear set of guidelines for the investigation and clean up of MTBE in groundwater.

To assist in this effort, a full set of health values for MTBE from exposure to the air pathway are needed to assess viable groundwater clean up technology that may have air emissions. These health values will be used by local air pollution control districts and other governmental agencies to assess the impacts of groundwater clean up technologies.

On April 26, 1999, the Air Resources Board (ARB) requested OEHHA to develop health values for the air exposure pathway for MTBE. OEHHA's assessment incorporates carcinogenicity information already contained in the technical support document compiled for the "Public Health Goal for MTBE in Drinking Water" (March 1999) and the recent report on MTBE completed by the University of California.

Dr. John R. Froines

August 4, 1999

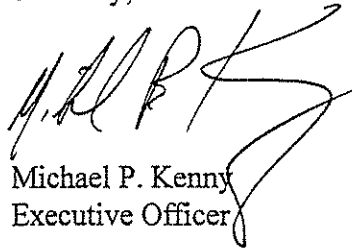
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OEHHA has already sent this documentation out to the public for a 30-day comment period which will end shortly. After the close of the comment period, OEHHA will provide the SRP with a copy of the comments and responses.

As you are aware, the chronic reference exposure level document currently under review by the SRP also contains a non-cancer health value for MTBE.

If you have any questions about this request, please call me at (916) 445-4383.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. P. Kenny", written over the typed name and title.

Michael P. Kenny  
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Joan E. Denton, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

George Alexeeff, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Mr. William Lockett  
Air Quality Measures Branch  
Stationary Source Division